

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the Tuesday, February 5, 2008 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, February 5th, 2008 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, S. Hoag, W. O'Connor, D. Stillinger, P. Payton, and L. Tavigian, and NJDEP Watershed Ambassador intern Mike Romankiewicz.

CTEC'S PURPOSE (N.J.S.A. 40:56A, 1968): to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2008 was published in the Chatham Courier & Daily Record newspapers and posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings and participate in projects.

Minutes

Minutes from January 8th, 2008 were approved as amended. S. Hoag motioned to accept and S. Carroll 2nd with all in favor.

Meeting Dates for 2008 and January 2009

Tues Jan 8 th , 2008	Tues Apr 1st, 2008	July – no meeting	Tues Oct 7 th , 2009	Tues Jan 6 th 2009
Tues Feb 5th, 2008	Tues May 6, 2008	Tues Aug 5th, 2008	Tues Nov 4 th , 2009	
Tues Mar 4th, 2008	Tues June 3rd, 2008	Tues Sept 9, 2008	Tues Dec 2nd, 2009	

Events

- Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 7-8 PM South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Avenue, South Plainfield. D. Stillinger will attend.
- Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 4-8 PM, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Highlands Council public hearing on final draft master plan. A sub-committee was formed consisting of S. Carroll, P. Collington and S. Hoag to address our concerns about the spillover effect. The sub-committee will gather information for a comments letter to be drafted by D. Stillinger.
- Sunday, February 17, 2008, 1:30-4 PM, Chatham-Summit Quaker Meeting, 158 Southern Boulevard. The first in a year long series of informative workshops on the environment. Come listen, learn and take heart in the multitude of practical steps you can take now to help change the direction of global warming and environmental degradation.
- Thursday, February 21, 2008, 6:30-9 PM, County College of Morris, Center Grove Road at Route 10, Randolph. "The Proposed COAH Rule Changes: The Impact on Your Municipality". An information presentation sponsored by the Morris County Department of Planning, Development & Technology. For more information call Jim Benson or Susan Zellman at the Housing Partnership at 973-659-9222.
- Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 6:45-8:45 PM, Clarence Dillon Library, Bedminster. New Flood Hazard Rules & Stream Protection. ANJEC Roadshow, Free for CTEC members.
- Monday, March 3, 2008, 8:30 AM-4:45 PM, Main Lounge, University Center, Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Avenue, South Orange. "The Precautionary Principal" conference. We have the power to adopt policies that will reverse past damage and prevent it in the future. \$100.00 609-396-3774.
- Saturday, March 15, 2008, 9 AM-12:30 PM, Clifton City Hall, 900 Clifton Avenue, Clifton. ANJEC training workshop for new EC members. P. Collington is planning to attend and will give a ride to anyone who wants to go.
- March 10, 15, 29, 2008, Environmental Commission Training. ANJEC workshop for new EC members. Every EC member should attend this workshop at least once. Visit www.anjec.org for more information.

Grants

- CTEC has been awarded a free copy of the GIS mapping program ArcView for 2008 from the ESRI Corporation.
- Grant notice has been received from the Garden Club of Somerset Hills for their Community Grants Program. They award grants up to \$1000 for education and plantings. Deadline is February 29th, 2008.
- Grant notice has been received from ANJEC for 2008 planning grants for NJ municipalities and counties. This is a pass-through grant from the Dodge Foundation. Acceptable projects include groundwater analysis, land use ordinances for green building and energy, plans for bike paths and trails, ordinances protecting steep slopes, stream corridors and well head areas, regional plans to protect natural resources. Application form is in EC mailbox. Deadline is March 31st, 2008.
- There are five NJ DCA grants available for environmentally progressive communities. Attendance at a mandatory meeting/workshop was required on February 6th, 2008.

Presentation

Mike Romankiewicz, the NJDEP Watershed Ambassador intern for 2008, was introduced by K. Abbott. He plans to present a workshop on organic lawn care for homeowners on Saturday, July 19, 2008, tentatively from 10 AM to 3 PM, with lunch to be included, at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. The proposed cost will be \$10.00 per person. Mike will investigate possibility and involvement requirements of co-sponsorship. Leslie Perness, Superintendent of Horticultural Education at the Arboretum will advertise the event in the Arboretum newsletter. It was suggested that we advertise to our residents and offer a discount or a payment voucher to them.

S. Hoag commented on Mike's Great Swamp Stream Monitoring Program, which she attended last November and recommends. The next program is scheduled for May.

P. Payton asked for follow up on names of green landscapers and green lawn products.

Application/LOI Review

- PENDING. 55 MOUNTAIN AVENUE. 4-27-07, Block 37, Lot 5.01. Majmudar. The applicant has offered to install 100 year storm water facilities and implement a management system if plans approved. Changes have been made to house plans to make it look less massive. Previous 2004 resolution allowing 1500 sq ft footprint does not prevent new size. This is a new application with new features. CTEC memo sent 10-4-07 has already addressed our concerns. P. Payton expressed concern that testing for new 100 yr runoff will disturb the land to such an extent that environmental damage could be done. L. Caprioglio stated that they already have approval for disturbance. D. Stilling expressed concern that this could set a precedent and would like to send a new letter stating EC concerns including ongoing maintenance of the water management system.
- PENDING. OAK KNOLL SCHOOL. 9-11-07. No action has been taken on the permit by the DEP as per J. Ruschke, the township engineer. No work can be done until the DEP grants a permit.

Reports & Discussion

- 2007 ANNUAL REPORT. D. Stilling requested review of final draft of CTEC Annual Report for 2007. S. Carroll suggested change. Report is already approved with minor changes. P. Collington suggestions have been taken into account and included. Additional changes should be e-mailed to D. Stilling.

- 2008 BUDGET. Proposed Budget for 2008 is \$10,000. W. O'Connor to present to the Township Committee for approval.

- ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE. Professional energy audit proposal has been made and the Township Committee is committed to it. W. O'Connor will present S. Carroll's letter to T. Ciccarone, Township Administrator.

- OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE. Signs for the Swamp Loop of the bike trail have been put up in Long Hill Township but Harding Township did not endorse putting up signs. It was suggested that a map of the full bike path be posted in the parking lots. S. Hoag will continue to investigate the use of the high tension wire land as possible bike paths. The \$95,000 grant has been obtained and will cover the path from Spring Street past the Emergency Building and Fire Department Building to Southern Boulevard to facilitate getting to Southern

Boulevard School and also the path from Pembroke along the high tension wires and PSE&G road to the high tension wires and then to Southern Boulevard. S. Hoag informed the commission that C. Merwin will be stepping down from the Open Space Committee.

- TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE. W. O'Connor reported that the Township Committee is working on a new tree ordinance. The Finance Committee will meet on 2/6/08 to decide on 2008 budget. D. Stillinger requested that S. Carroll be copied on energy related discussions and decisions.

- RIVERSIDE CLEANUP. The cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 19th, 2008. D. Stillinger requested all to review the list of tasks. P. Collington will assist.

- ELECTRONICS RECYCLING. Spring recycling will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, 2008, from 9AM to noon. L. Tavtigian will run it. S. Hoag and P. Collington will look into the recycling of batteries and bulbs and will present a proposal to T. Ciccarone and J. Barilla.

- ANTI-IDLING CAMPAIGN. Signs are up. Bookmarks have been ordered for children to pass out at curb side. The School District has also ordered signs. Problem of commercial vehicles left idling for long periods of time was discussed. It was proposed to send letters to companies explaining the idling law. P. Collington has a sample letter for Utility Companies stating the law and explaining the problems caused by idling.

- NEW RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS. P. Collington gave the report to W. O'Connor who will discuss it with the Recycling Co-ordinator and the DPW. Additional information for recycling plans and guidelines is available at www.mcmua.com. A one page flyer on what to recycle was presented and copied. It will be available to residents at townhall. It was suggested that a packet be given to new residents explaining recycling.

- ARTIFICIAL TURF. W. O'Connor reported that the DEP is requiring a permit for artificial turf at the Shunpike fields. Clarification on proceeding with project is expected by the end of the year. D. Stillinger will leave literature from Environmental and Human Health Incorporated on artificial turf by CTEC mailbox. K. Abbott expressed health concerns of artificial turf and the possibility of high levels of lead, zinc and pathogens. Discussion to be continued with intent of presenting information and recommendations to the Township Committee.

CTEC meeting adjourned at 10:00PM

Marge Gerba
Acting Minutes Secretary